



Congressman Bud Cramer

April 2003
E-Newsletter

This has been a busy month here in the House of Representatives. We passed important legislation during March and also began our military strikes against Iraq. This is a trying time for all Americans as we witness the loss of some of our brave men and women in uniform. They have given their lives for our safety, and we need to keep their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers during this time.

Bud Cramer

Washington Update

On March 19th, the United States and Coalition forces began military strikes against Iraq. The troops have made significant progress in their mission to disarm Saddam Hussein and free the Iraqi citizens from his regime. During the past month, Congress has acted to support our men and women in the military both overseas fighting this war and those who are back at home:

- On March 20th, the House unanimously approved the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003 that provided much-needed tax relief to our men and women in the military.
- The House passed H.Con. Res. 118 commending the bravery of the members of the U.S. Armed Forces and our coalition partners and expressing condolences to the families of soldiers who have been killed, wounded, are missing in action, or have been taken prisoner of war. The resolution also demands that Iraqi authorities comply with its obligations of the Convention Relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.
- This week, Congress is scheduled to vote on a Supplemental Appropriations bill that would provide \$75 billion for defense, intelligence, and homeland security programs to help our soldiers safely and effectively fight the war in Iraq.

Congressman Cramer also announced that on March 27th, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1104 – the Child Abduction Prevention Act. This bill sets up a national AMBER Alert communications plan that is crucial in the hours immediately following abduction that can lead to a child's safe return. Among other measures that help protect children from abduction and abuse, the bill also reauthorizes funding for Children's Advocacy Centers, child-friendly facilities where abused children and their families can receive help in one central location. Congressman Cramer founded the first Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama in 1985 as Madison County District Attorney.

District Update

Cramer joined the Alabama Congressional delegation and Henrietta Holsman Fore, Director of the U.S. Mint to celebrate the launch of the new Alabama state quarter. The coin, which began circulating March 24th, bears an image of Shoals native Helen Keller, her name in Braille, the "Spirit of Courage" banner, and the magnolia and Alabama longleaf pine. This is the first currency in the nation to include Braille.



Also this month, Congressman Cramer toured SciQuest's new Immersive Theater in Huntsville. The theater allows students to interact with what they view, from creating their own solar system or exploring the human body. Congressman Cramer has worked with the Alabama delegation to secure \$9.5 million for SciQuest over the past three years, which has helped make it a state-of-the-art, hands-on science and mathematics learning center.

Cramer also announced the American Red Cross has re-launched its national preparedness information hotline 1-866-GET INFO (1-866-438-4636) to provide callers with disaster safety and preparedness information. The hotline offers an easy-to-understand information source for people seeking advice on personal and family safety.